

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, starting at line 25 with the following text:

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become further apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claims 1-6 with the following text:

1. A method for driving a solid state imaging device comprising:
 accumulating information charges generated in a plurality of
light receiving pixels during a first period in portions of vertical shift
registers corresponding to each odd line and in portions of vertical shift
registers corresponding to each even line;
 vertically transferring the information charges accumulated in
the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each odd line to the
portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each adjacent even line,
compounding the information charges originated from the portions of vertical
shift registers corresponding to each odd line into the information charges
accumulated in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each
adjacent even line, and holding resultant information charges in the portions
of vertical shift registers corresponding to each even line;
 accumulating information charges generated in a light receiving
pixel in each odd line during a second period in the portions of vertical shift
registers corresponding to each odd line, and of accumulating information
charges generated in a light receiving pixel in each even line during the
second period in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each
even line in addition to the information charges that are already accumulated
therein;

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transferring the information charges accumulated in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each odd line and the information charges accumulated in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each even line to a horizontal shift registers and compounding in the horizontal shift register the information charges originated from the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each odd line into the information charges originated from the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each even line; and

driving the horizontal shift register after compounding in the horizontal shift register to obtain an information output of the solid state imaging device.

2. The driving method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a second period such that the amount of information charges generated in each of the plurality of light receiving pixels during the second period is equal to or less than the charge storage capacity of the light receiving pixels.

The driving method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a second period such that the amount of information charges generated in a light receiving pixel corresponding to a maximum luminance portion of an object during the second period falls within a predetermined range relative to the charge storage capacity of the light receiving pixel.

4. A method for driving a solid state imaging device comprising: accumulating during a first period information charges generated in light receiving pixels in each odd line and of accumulating during a second period information charges generated in the light receiving pixels in each even line, the second period being shorter than the first period;

vertically transferring the information charges accumulated in the light receiving pixels in each odd line and the information charged

accumulated in the light receiving pixels in each even line to a horizontal shift register after accumulating and compounding the information charges originating from the light receiving pixels in each odd line with the information charges originating from the light receiving pixels in each even line; and

driving the horizontal shift register after compounding to obtain an information output of the solid state imaging device.

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Cont'd

5. The driving method according to claim 4, further comprising determining a second period such that the amount of information charges generated in each of the plurality of light receiving pixels during the second period is equal to or less than the charge storage capacity of the light receiving pixels.

6. The driving method according to claim 4, further comprising determining a second period such that the amount of information charges generated in light receiving pixel corresponding to a maximum luminance portion of an object during the second period falls within a predetermined range relative to the charge storage capacity of the light receiving pixel.

Please add the following new claims.

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7. (New) The method according to claim 1 further comprising arranging the plurality of light receiving pixels in a matrix.

8. (New) The method according to claim 1 further comprising independently vertically transferring information charges from the light receiving pixels in the odd line and from the light receiving pixels in the even line.

9. (New) The method according to claim 4 further comprising
arranging the plurality of light receiving pixels in a matrix.

10. (New) The method according to claim 4 further comprising
independently vertically transferring information charges from the light
receiving pixels in the odd line and from the light receiving pixels in the even
line.